

JANATA DAL (UNITED) MANIFESTO

A VISIONARY CHARTER

OF

PERFORMANCE, PROMISES, PLEDGES

VISION

The Janata Dal (United) draws inspiration from the percepts and practices of leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Jay Prakash Narayan and Karpoori Thakur.

- It solemnly believes in the cardinal principle of guaranteeing to every citizen of India security of life and property, economic livelihood consistent with human dignity and seeks to create a Society based on equality and justice in which the fruits of development can benefit all segments of society without any discrimination based on caste, creed and religion.
- And in seeking to do so continue to strive in building an India free of communal strife and ensure that the marginalized segments of society, particularly Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and the most Backward among the Backward is be brought within the fold of our economic mainstream.
- And take Special steps to empower Women by guaranteeing to them not only an appropriate and significant role various stages and steps of Governance but enable the harnessing of their valuable contribution to economic growth and development.
- And to unleash the power of Youth to reap the advantage of India's large young population.
- Our party is committed to the principles of Sahabgita and work towards inclusive governance by involving citizens in decision making processes of the Government's administration. Seeking 'people co-operation and their participation' in decision making process will not only ensure improved quality of governance at all levels but would also strengthen various institutions of our democratic functioning. This is a quest of the common people to make India a more participative democracy.
- In an inter-dependent world emerging markets are likely to play a new and strategic role in shaping the new world order given their growing economic clout. Emerging markets of India and China are poised for an important role in reviving the faltering global growth momentum. Nonetheless, within India several states remain endemically weak. These "emerging states" within an emerging India need special and differential treatment to join the mainstream. We will seek a

- New Deal for these sub-emerging states to become important contributors to national growth.
- And to foster and create awareness in ensuring accountability in its governing process to the electorate and consciously refashion and readapt its policies and programmed to realize the aforesaid aims and objectives.
 - Because we believe that the health of sub-national states are critical to overall national health and the federal polity must fulfill these sub-national aspirations for the vitality of the nation as a whole. This role needs to be constantly reenergized.

OUR PERFORMANCES IN BIHAR

The Janata Dal (United)'s report card on performance is a consistent and credible story of walking the talk and keeping its promises. There could not have been any bigger test case than ensuring good governance in Bihar, the State about which all had lost hopes for any redemption in the foreseeable future. Bihar was being increasingly viewed as a "Basket Case" ridden with crime, declining growth rate, growing unemployment with pervasive despondency and fear. The State had shriveled and governance increasingly taken over by criminals, anti-social elements and extortionists. There was continuing flight of managerial talent and private capital. The future looked bleak and the people, particularly women, could barely take the risk of stepping out after day light. Yet in just over three years the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government headed by Nitesh Kumar has dramatically reversed this story. The rise of a new Bihar is being suddenly acclaimed. First and foremost, a decisive change has restored and people conduct their everyday life without fear and with hope for a better future. This new climate for development has strongly enticed the interest of private entrepreneurs. However, government is conscious that in the early phases of a new development thrust the State has to play a major role. In fact the State has thus taken multiple initiatives to restore law and order, improve infrastructure, take advantage of its talented and large population by improving health and education, and to follow a policy of inclusive growth. Its three years of "Development with Justice" can be seen in every facet of governance, some of which are described below.

One of the central features has also been to pursue a development centric agenda which is socially cohesive. There has been not one incidence of communal tension during this period. The same is true of any caste related violence. Special steps have also been initiated to mainstream the marginalized segments of society, particularly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the most Backward among the Backward Community. Apart from improving growth rates it has substantially improved its reckoning in the Index of Human Development.

Consider the following:

Law and Order

- Marked improvement in law and order situation in Bihar
- No communal or caste strife in the last 3 years
- Incident of kidnapping for ransom virtually vanished.
- Speedy trial and conviction of criminals has instilled fear of law.
- For social and economic enlistment of Naxal prone areas, an innovative program to ensure execution of all developmental and welfare activities, “APKI SARKAR APKE DWAR” was started.

Agriculture

- Rainbow revolution which means promoting agriculture and all its allied activities has improved farm incomes.
- While farmers in relatively developed states are resorting to suicide, farmers in Bihar are looking forward to the gains of the “Rainbow Revolution”.
- Bihar tops the list among Indian states as far as growth rate in agriculture is concerned. An objective study done by Professor Gurmail Singh of Department of Economics, Punjab University, Chandigarh bears this out.
- The Plan allocation for agriculture has risen substantially. In 2008-09 saw a 81% enhancement in plan allocation for agriculture compared to last year.
- Proposal for a 50% subsidy on agricultural equipments is under implementation.
- So far 2.28 lakh soil health cards have been distributed.
- An Agriculture Action Plan with seed replacement programmed in a time bound period launched.
- New Agriculture Universities being set up to improve Research and Development and improve farm practices.

Health

- The percentage of fully immunized children has increased substantially from 11.6 percent in 2002 to 53 percent in 2008.
- Monthly number of institutional birth has increased; Institutional births in 2007 were 18,015 which increased to 76,411 in March 2008.
- A strengthening of infrastructural facilities in the health sector initiated. Construction of 1544 Health Sub Centers per year has started, construction of 662 additional **PHCs** has commenced, conversion of 263 **PPHC** into 30 bed hospitals in the next two years has taken up, conversion of all the sub-divisional into 100 bed hospitals has been started, work to convert the district hospitals into 300 and 500 bed hospitals has been initiated. The establishment of super specialist wards in all the Government Medical Colleges has been started.

- Under Public Private Partnership, pathology centers, radiology centers, maintenance services, generator and laundry facilities, food for the patients, blood storage centers are now being carried out by private institutions in the hospitals.
- The ICU facility in all districts of the State has been provided.
- Number of patients visiting **PHC** has dramatically improved from just 30 a month to over 3000 a month because of assured treatment.
- Outsourcing of the Management related works in government hospitals has been started so as to free the doctors and other health care personnel to discharge their primary responsibility of taking care of the patients.

Education

- Over 220,000 primary teachers have been appointed of which 50% are women.
- Appointment process of 80,000 primary teachers has been initiated in which women have again been given 50% reservation.
- In 2008-09 alone 833 school buildings and 27,094 additional classrooms have been constructed.
- Due to improvement in infrastructure facilities, the teacher-pupil ratio has decreased from 91:1 to 70:1.
- 1,168 higher secondary schools have been covered with computer education.
- 162 camps for physically challenged children have been organized, 13,436 such children have been identified and provided aids and appliances free of cost.

Higher Education

- The long felt need of an **IIT** in Bihar has been realized due to the constant persuasion of the State Government and other states have also benefited from this.
- Chandragupta Institute of Management has been started.
- Revival of Nalanda International University which is underway is an attempt to revive the glorious past of Bihar as a knowledge hub.
- A ‘Chanakya National Law University’ has been set up for ensuring quality education in law
- Establishment of National Institute of Fashion Technology to ensure availability of skilled manpower for fashion industry.
- Establishment of “Aryabhat Gyan Viswavidyalaya” for development of all technical and management institutes of the state.
- 3 engineering colleges of Gaya, Motihari and Dharbanga, closed from many years have been restarted and a new engineering college at Chandi (Nalanda) has been established.

Infrastructure

- Work of up gradation of 2955 km state highways is in progress. Up gradation of 2700 km district roads have been completed.
- Rs 1100 crore have been provided so far for construction of bridges to link the remote rural areas of the State.
- An MOU has been signed between BSEB and NTPC to establish 1960 MW power generation plant at Nabinagar, Aurangabad as a Joint Venture.
- Additional 500 MW power generation capacities have been approved each at Barauni and Kanti.
- 12 units of more than 100 MW electricity generation units in private sector have been cleared by “Rajya Nivesh Protsahan Perished”. Among this MOUs have been signed with 4 companies.

Key Progress Indicators

- According to ASSOCHAM, Bihar registered a 100% growth during the third quarter of 2008-09 (a time of low business expectations) in investments planned by corporate India.
- In November 2008, the state registered a rise of 20% in automobile sales when most states showed a negative trend.
- Union Petroleum and Natural gas Ministry pointed out that fuel usage was growing in Bihar at the rate of 13%, twice the national average.
- ASER Report found that while the national average of enrolment was 75.4 percent in 2005, it declined to 72.2 percent in 2008, but in Bihar it was 71.9 percent in 2005 and 83.6 percent in 2008. The dropout of the girls in 11-14 years age group has dropped from 20 percent to just eight percent now and Bihar stands only next to Rajasthan on this account.
- The RBI report shows Bihar as the leading state in social sector expenditure as a percentage of GSDP.

Social Sector

- According to a RBI report among all the states; Bihar with an expenditure of 18.7 percent has the highest social sector expenditure as a percentage of GSDP.
- Welfare of Backward castes and extremely backward castes has been accorded priority.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Bhikshavriti Niwaran Yojna to stop begging a “State Society for Ultra Poor” has been constituted.
- To provide protection to juvenile, orphan and unprotected children state level Child Protection Unit and child protection units have been constituted at the district level.

- In November 2005, the number of approved and functional child development schemes was 393 which increased to 537 in the year 2008.
- In October 2005, persons benefited from all types of Social Security Pension Schemes were 8.56 lakh whereas the figure increased to 19.74 lakh in September 2008.
- There is a provision of 50 percent reservation in Panchayat Raj Institutions as well as appointment of teachers in schools.
- Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Yojna has been started, and under this scheme 5,600 new self Help Groups have been formed.
- Efforts initiated to provide 4 decimal of land each to a total of 7, 07,924 Mahadalit families.
- In 2008-09, for the first time in state “Gender Budget” has been initiated.
- “Bihar State Prawasi Majdoor Durghatna Anudan Yojana”, a scheme for migrant labors of unorganized sector with a provision of Rs 1, 00,000 has been started.

Minority Welfare

- Free textbooks have been distributed among 8, 07,949 children belonging to the minority Muslim community.
- To attract girls of minority community towards education, free vocational training programmed of “HUNAR” has been started targeting girls in the age group of 10-16.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Alpsankhyak Protshan Yojna, the minority students who have passed out matriculation examination with first division from Bihar School Examination Board are being provided Rs 10,000 each. Under this scheme Rs 2, 62, 70,000 disbursed so far.
- Coaching facility to candidates of minority community appearing in BPSC and UPSC examinations.
- Economic support of Rs. 10,000 provided to each of the destitute women belonging to minority community for self employment.
- Scheme has been approved for development of Wakf Board.
- Under Mukhyamantri Shramshakti Yojna, trained persons belonging to minority community are being provided technical training for six years.

Mainstreaming the disadvantaged (affirmative action)

- A Maha Dalit Commission Constituted
- “Bihar Manadalit Vikas Mission” formed and Rs. 288.19 crore approved in 1st phase for all-round developments of Mahadalits.
- Free textbooks have been distributed among 22, 30,599 children belonging to the Most Backward Community.
- Process of appointment of lectures, graduate teachers and computers teachers has been started for Girls Residential School for other backward castes (OBC).
- In the Police Department process has been initiated clear the backlog of 2707 posts belonging to SC/ST/EBC/OBC categories.

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Industrial Development

- To encourage investments in Bihar, “Rajya Nivesh Protsahan Parishad” has cleared 164 proposals with an investment of Rs. 91.75 thousand crore and employment potential of 1.23 lakh persons. In this 23 sugar mills, 20 power plants, 24 food processing units, 32 technical institutions and 35 other investment proposals have been cleared.
- Out of 164 approved proposals, 16 have been implemented and started working, while 148 are at the implementation stage.
- To develop handloom clusters “Integrated Handloom Development Scheme” is initiated and in the first phase 9 handloom clusters have been formed.
- In Industrial Areas approval is given to 1,326 small scale units in which 3,878 persons are employed in the year 2008-09.
- Proposal regarding amendment in the Bihar Sugarcane supply and procurement bill sent to the Hon’ble President for approval. This will give power to State Government to decide the price of sugarcane and this will also bring sugar cane based ethanol and other support industries in its preview.

Rural Development

- Bihar Rajya Gram Swaraj Yojana Society has been constituted for strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- On the basis of Sate Finance Commission recommendations, the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been provided a matching grant of 3% of the net tax revenue collection of the government.
- Rs 14.46 crore have been sanctioned for capacity building of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Bihar Rajya Gramin Vyapaar Council has been constituted to establish and commission village trade centers.
- 89.39 lakh job cards have been distributed under NREGA.

Other Development Initiatives

- Speedy progress in the areas of irrigation and flood control schemes.
- Under Bagmati Flood Control scheme, work Rs.135.11 Control Schemes are under implementation.
- City Development Plans were approved for Patna and Bodh Gaya. City Development Plans for 8 more towns in the state are under way.
- With the State Plan, Rs 315.78 crore water development plans approved for 26 urban bodies. In addition Rs 60 crore given to improve drainage system.
- Coverage of hand pumps in 7,500 villages.
- Toilet construction in the homes of 4,84,638 BPL families.
- A draft Nutrition Policy for the state has been developed.

- Improvement in work culture in government functions through e-governance.
- “Bihar Prashasanik Sudhar Mission” has been launched with the help of DFID.

PROMISES

Growth & Poverty

It is evident that without the policies designed to secure higher GDP growth rate, neither poverty can be reduced nor quality of life improved.

We will seek the adoption of policies and strategies which can restore the growth trends to over 9 percent of GDP as envisaged in the XIth Five Year Plan. These relate to creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework, including structural reforms, which can revive the financial and credit system, incentives green field private investment and can employment.

At the same time Growth alone given its inherent bias to create inequities may not be adequate to ameliorate poverty. We believe that the current method of poverty estimation based on household surveys is deeply flawed and does not take into account the parameters like medical expenses, education, and other vulnerabilities. Even without the impact of the sharp rise in prices of food products and other essential articles, the Arjun Sengupta Committee report on the unorganized sector estimates that over 800 million Indians are living on less than Rs.20 a day. The percentage of such people in poorer states like Bihar would be even higher. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has recently estimated that given the price rise and global economic meltdown, poverty has in fact increased, many who were above the poverty line have gone back into deep poverty over the last 18 months. Its incidence in the poorer states of India would be higher. The poverty numbers thus, remain unexpectedly high.

We therefore commit ourselves:

- To seek a more acceptable methodology on developing data on multiple parameters based on household estimates.
- To seek the implementation of the Patna Declaration on Poverty adopted by National and International experts on July 22, 2007.
- To seek the enactment of a National Livelihood Act this can enshrine the right to livelihood in a manner consistent with human dignity.

Ecological and Environment Management

We recognize that in the long run, growth cannot be sustainable if environmental concerns are not addressed. These have many facets:

- Environmental stewardship, especially with respect to critical resources such as water needs priority attention.
- Climate change in particular affects agriculture and hence livelihood of most of our population.

Within environmental stewardship three focus areas that contribute to development and quality of life are: a) protection of environmental quality-reducing the everyday pollution (emissions from unturned engines, biomass cooking, rural industry) that affect women and children's respiratory health; b) a focus on energy efficiency – the way to reduce personal costs, national costs, and global costs; c) to ensure environmental justice – support for adaptation due to climate change impacts such as unusual floods of monsoons.

- We will therefore seek the implementation of more integrated environmental and ecological policies after consultations with other State Governments.
- We will also seek that these policies be enacted through a Special Law entitled "National Climate Change and Ecological Preservation Act".

River Management System

- We experience a curious feature that while some parts of India have excessive water many other parts suffer severe drought. Floods and droughts are endemic in states like Bihar, Assam and many others parts of the country.
- We will seek to revive credible efforts for a more optimum river basin utilization by intra-linking of intra rivers to optimally harness the water potential of the State.
- We will seek that in respect of inter State Rivers the techno feasibility studies must first guarantee its usage to meet the present and projected future requirement of the concerned states before committing water to other states in any inter state linking programmed.
- In this context we will seek and utilize the expertise available with the National waterways Development Council (NWDC) particularly in impounding, transmitting and distributing flood waters among various river basins,

Dialogue with Neighboring countries particularly Nepal

It is well known that parts of India, particularly Bihar, habitually suffers the cruel consequences both of heavy precipitation and the changing course of rivers emanating from the Upper Catchments area of Nepal.

We will seek to initiate a more credible dialogue with Nepal for Joint National and International efforts for a massive reforestation programmed in the Upper Catchments

area in Nepal as well as harnessing the irrigation and heeled potential of these rivers to the mutual benefit of both India and Nepal.

Center State Relations

The current modalities for Center-State relations are flawed. They do not reflect the changed context to make fiscal federalism work efficiently to the advantage of both the Centre and the States.

- We will seek to enhance the devolution of tax resources from the common divisible pool to the States from the present 31% to 50%
- We will seek to make it mandatory for the Central Government to consult the States on any unilateral decisions which adversely affect the finances of the states.
- We will seek to de-politicize discretionary allocations to the States outside the formulaic driven ones by making the planning Commission into a Secretariat to service a more statutorily constituted National Development Council.
- We seek institutional and consultative mechanisms for Centre-State dialogues which are better suited to the needs of the time.

ABOLITION OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

- The National Development Council had on several occasions discussed the abolition of centrally sponsored schemes which are being poorly administered and unsuitable for local conditions. It is also depriving the States of financial resources to which they would otherwise be entitled. While there was some rationalization of the CSS Schemes earlier, over the last few years such schemes have expanded significantly reducing further the entitlement driven resources available to the states. Instead there has been an enlarging of the resources for the Central sector.
- We shall seek the abolition of all centrally sponsoren schemes and to make these resources directly available to the states for enabling decision on schemes and their mode of implementation to suit local conditions.

Rationalizing Antipoverty Measures and Subsidy

- Currently there are multiple subsidies, both explicit and implicit, being implemented by the Central and State Governments. These include subsidies on fertilizers, Public Distribution System, Petroleum Products, Agricultural implements, and electricity, to name a few. It is necessary to enhance the benefits and reach of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by adapting and restructuring it to local conditions enhancing the wages and the number of days of guaranteed employment and eliminating many distortions which have crept in the scheme. It is now well accepted that the benefits of these subsidies do not reach the intended beneficiaries and their implementation record remain poor, with persistent complaints about leakages and widespread corruption. The duplication of bureaucratic structures both at the Centre and the States is also an unhappy outcome. Time has now come to rationalize these anti poverty measures to ensure that its benefits reach the intended beneficiaries and wasteful implementation expenses are minimized.

We will therefore seek:

1. That a scientific and credible identification of all BPL and APL is undertaken to determine to their identity and location.
2. The financial quantum and value embedded in these subsidies and anti poverty measures is quantified and pooled together.
3. Thereafter the money be directly transferred, based on per capita entitlement, to the intended beneficiaries by crediting it directly to his individual bank account.
4. The direct cash transfer of the value of all subsidies which he is currently supposed to receive on multiple counts would reduce corruption, enlarge his choice, shrink multiplicity of departments and agencies engaged in its administration. It would also lend transparency on the total quantum actually spent on such Anti Poverty and Subsidy Schemes. Both the individual and the Government would know the benefits being conferred.
5. The quantum of the subsidies would be indexed to price trends and based on available finances could be calibrated over time.

Electoral Reforms

Electoral reforms remain stalled. The frequent periodicity of elections distracts both the States and the Centre from ongoing developmental works besides imposing excessive financial burden.

- We will seek wide ranging electoral reforms which can synchronize the elections to Panchayats, State Assemblies and Parliament only once in five years by an appropriate amendment of the Constitution and the Representation of Peoples' Act...
- We will make State funding for Elections mandatory based on a consensus to be reached among all national and regional parties.
- We will seek to curb the use of black money in elections and money laundering which also finances criminal activities.

Administrative and Governance Reforms

- We will seek side ranging administrative and governance reforms based on a fuller implementation of the Sarkaria Commission Report as well as the recently appointed Commission on Administrative Reforms.
- We will seek to firewall institutions from excessive politicization.
- We will also seek adequate administrative and financial delegation to local institutions.
- We will seek to enforce zero tolerance on corruption in our governance process.
- We will seek to ensure that the wealth and property realized through corrupt means is confiscated and put to development use.
- In this connection we will also take new initiatives and International cooperation to confiscate and back the illicit money held by companies and individuals in Banks located in Switzerland and other Tax havens for enabling their utilization for development objectives.
- We will seek to build a more compassionate society in which the infirm, and disabled are not denied access to entitlements on account of their age.
- We will strengthen devolution to the Panchayat institutions the responsibility of administration, financial and executive functions and make it mandatory for states to follow this directive making it a precondition for access to Central funds. In this process, the views of the Gram Sabha also need to be fully reflected.
- We will follow similar governance reforms in the Urban Sector by constituting Citizen's Council or Mohalla Sabha in urban areas with mandated responsibility and functions for enabling de-centralization of responsibility also in urban areas.
- The experience of citizenry in making its interface with government in multiple facets of life would be made easier and friendlier.
- Access to public Distribution System would be improved, malpractices curbed and innovative scientific methods used to reach the intended beneficiary.
- We will seek improved and beneficiary focused delivery mechanisms and programs for public interventions. We will restructure interventions and policies with the citizen at the center, and not the convenience of government departments. This means that if livelihood support for a particular occupation would benefit from contributions from several departments, the departments will coordinate and

offer the package to the citizen with one single application form/requirement. It means that one form of ID and one form of proof of status would be enough for multiple programs. It also means that multiple programs will offer information in the single place.

Strengthening Agriculture

We will seek the full implementation of the Agricultural Action Plan which is region specific. These relate to:

- Time bound action to complete the seed replacement programmed.
- Improving research and development by establishing new Agricultural Universities.
- Expand the area under assured irrigation and seek improved maintenance, renovation and management of existing water bodies.
- Foster cropping patterns which are drought resistant, economical in use of water and can withstand the consequences of rise in temperature.
- Ensure adequate availability of formal credit to all farmers making this mandatory through a new law to be called "Agricultural Credit Access and Disbursement Act". This implies a change in the priority sector guidelines of the Reserve Bank with a minimum target of 10% to be specifically fixed for marginal and small farmers within the overall target.
- Seek close monitoring by the Reserve Bank of India on the credit flow to this segment of marginal and small farmers who have land holdings below two hectares.
- Ensure credit access to the 20-40% of the marginal and small farmers who are excluded from the formal financial sector due to the procedures relating to patty and title deeds.
- Very often Bartenders do not have formal Title Deeds which remain with the land owners. Notwithstanding this, these Bartenders who are actually tilling the land should have access to credit.
- Seek the creation of a Credit Guarantee fund in NABARD on the lines of CGF to guarantee loans to small units.
- Seek the implementation of the recommendations of NCEUS (National Commission on Unorganized Sector headed by Dr. Arjun Sengupta) to improve the conditions of small and marginal farmers who constitute 84% of the farming community.
- Seek that the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices be made an autonomous statutory organization.
- Seek that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is 50% more than the weighted average cost of production and thereby enabling the net take home income of farmers comparable to other segments of society.
- Seek the creation of an Agriculture Risk Fund to insulate the farmers from risks arising from recurring drought and other weather conditions.

- Seek the early implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers under Professor M.S. Swami Nathan as contained in their Final Report submitted in October 2006.
- Promote Rainbow Agriculture which can enhance farm incomes even in the pursuit of intensive agricultural cultivation and fragmented land holding by encouraging allied activities like fishery, horticulture, poultry, to mention a few.
- Create agricultural employment hubs in villages through assured energy both conventional and renewable.
- Seek orderly change in livelihood patterns which can reduce the pressure on agricultural land by providing gainful employment opportunities in rural areas and make farmers compulsory stakeholders in future land acquisitions for non agricultural activities.
- Pursue the updating and computerization of land records making land transaction easier and more transparent.
- Seek to implement Land Reforms.
- Seek a uniform non politicized Food Procurement Policy by State Agencies based on the volume and proportion of production in relation to national averages.
- Central procurement agencies exclude many states from their actual procurement even though they may be important producers of food grains and other commodities. This discriminatory Procurement Policy must be reversed and procurement should be undertaken on an All India basis.

Infrastructure

Improving the availability and affordability of infrastructure will be central to our programmed.

Power

- We will seek to improve the generating capacities in endemically power deficient States by giving preferential access to Coal mines. This is necessary to improve per-capita power availability in States like Bihar which is abysmal compared to even a low national average.
- We commit ourselves to ensure full rural electrification by providing a three phase electricity connection which can also enable farmers to pursue agriculture and other allied activities apart from rural homes.
- We will in power distribution reduce transmission and distribution losses to restore the financial health and solvency of State Electricity Boards.
- We will also seek that new Central power utilities must be set in power deficient States and more importantly allocate a much higher proportion of generated power to such States and scrap all old Agreements in this regard and replace them by a fairer and more rational arrangement.

- We will harness the potential of all renewable forms of energy particularly solar, wind Biomass and agro waste by strengthening Research and Development and assigning additional resources.
- We will seek to harness the capability of Civil Nuclear Energy particularly by encouraging Research and Development for fast breeder reactors and the abundant indigenous availability of thorium.

Roads

- On Roads the ongoing National Highways programmed must be completed by de-politicizing the road building process and according the implementing agency the autonomy to take appropriate decisions to speed up implementation.
- We will seek that allocation for rural roads should be tripled and its execution strictly given to state government or their agencies with mandatory auditing and compliance reports.
- Will seek new forms of financial engineering to mitigate the cost of operation and maintenance of these roads.
- We will now seek not only Village but Hamlet connectivity connecting population even below 500 apart from the connectivity of 500-1000 under the Mukhya Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana.

Telecom

- We will seek higher rural telephony network and improved broad band connectivity by allocating a higher proportion of funds from the National Universal Service Obligation Fund to States where rural connectivity and broad band availability is significantly below national averages.

Civil Aviation

- On Civil Aviation we seek that States where the reach and penetration of Aviation connectivity in relation to their population density is below national averages must receive a preferential treatment.

- Seek to create State and Rural Civil Aviation hubs which will through better linkages help in generating the benefits of more integrated Common Markets.

Law and Order – Judicial Reforms

While at the National level zero tolerance to terrorist related violence need fully support, strengthening the internal security apparatus in States must remain a priority. This is true particularly for districts and areas prone to internal insurgencies and the growing penetrations of Naxal violence.

- We will towards this end seek must higher level of resources coupled with mechanism for coordinated intelligence sharing and action.
- Accelerate the efforts for State police modernization and innovative efforts to contain the Naxal related violence.
- At the same time improving the criminal justice administration by speedier trials, filling up existing vacancies, creating additional benches for a quicker dispensation of justice will receive our special attention.

Defense

- The security and sovereign integrity of India is paramount. We will take all steps to strengthen our defense capabilities, seek conditions of work, pay and allowances for our Armed Forces commensurate to their dedication and sacrifice and also gainfully utilize the experience of ex-servicemen.

Education

- We will seek that the existing allocation for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is enhanced and the sharing formula between the Centre and the States is determined in the 70-30 ratio given the resource constraints of the States.
- We will seek a wider acceptance and adoption of Common Schooling System.
- We will seek a special drive to improve the Teacher Training programmed to improve outcomes and quality of education.
- In the Right to Children Education Bill we will seek to ensure quality of educational outcomes, innovative teaching methods and retain avenues for gainful private particular. A competitive culture always enhances educational outcomes.

- The states where the percentage of children seeking higher education is below the national average need many more Central Universities than is presently proposed to be created.
- We will seek a restructuring and reforms of the Higher Education System by according greater autonomy and implementing the multi-faceted recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and other specialized bodies.
- At the same time a more credible programmed on Vocational Training and skill development programmed needs to be implemented to enhance ability for value added activity in light of changing demand for skills.

Health

- Primary Health Centers need up-gradation to improve health outcomes.
- The initiatives for Public Private Partnership needs will be strengthened.
- Facilities for nursing training colleges for paramedics need substantial expansion particularly in states like Bihar and other areas like the North East which being a rich reservoir of talent.
- Unit based health scheme would be initiated.
- Health cards will be issued to every citizen.
- Sanitation and provision of toilets is important for health hygiene and privacy toilets would be launched.

Women and Child Development

- Special steps would be taken to ensure adequate participation of Women in different layers of governance and elected bodies.
- We will seek positive discrimination in favour of Women in employment, and further improving their working conditions.
- The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the India Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles, The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. We will support all initiatives aimed at empowering women and bring them at par with support all initiatives aimed at empowering women and bring them at par with their male counterparts. The Party would specifically mainstream the gender perspective in its development index. There will be improved implementation of programme which are already women oriented with special targets for women. Step will be taken for mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering

- them a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities.
- We recognize that restoring the country's growth momentum must proceed in tandem with achieving the well accepted Millennium Development Goals. One area where India has lagged behind relates to implementation of nutritional norms resulting in a high percentage of malnourished and stunted children in the country. We are committed to improving the Integrated Child Development Scheme and the Mid Day Meal scheme through food fortification, additives of micro-nutrients to ensure the balanced and healthy development of children in this country. All relevant programme, including the implementation of national nutritional policy, would be made ensure that such deficiencies do not impair the health of our children.

Specific attention would be given to improving the life and opportunities of the Girl child.

- We will adopt to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate below 20 per 1000 live births.
- We will adopt a comprehensive program for Juvenile Justice.
- We will seek Child Budgeting: The objective of this would be to analyses budgetary provisions on social sector, to identify the magnitude of budgetary allocations made by the Centre/State Governments on schemes meant for addressing specific needs of children, to examine the trend in child specific expenditure etc.

Welfare of Artisans

The conditions of artisans in various skills like handloom weavers, leather, textiles, handicrafts, carpet making, carpentry and skills have continued to deteriorate.

We will seek

- To ensure the preservation of inherited and traditional skills of these artisans to seek a onetime waiver of all loans owed to banks and financial institutions by these artisans to relieve their economic distress;
- Seek to improve marketing linkages, technological up gradation; and assured access to subsidized finance to improve product, upgrade skills and alter production pattern keeping in view the changing demands.

Minority Welfare

- We will seek to reverse the endemic neglect of minorities in our economic mainstream.
- We will particularly focus on educational handicaps, particularly girls through an integrated action plan.
- Based on the success of the programme Talimi Marqaz for improving the education of the poor Muslims we will seek its wider national adaptation.
- We will seek the implementation of the wide range recommendations of the Sachar Commission, Rangnath Mishra Commission and other such bodies for improving minority welfare and mainstreaming them through enhanced resources as well as a credible time bound Implementation Plan.

Filling Vacancy Backlogs

- According to the annual report of the Ministry of Personnel, the representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs in Central Government employment remain abysmally low and far below their entitlement as per the reservations which have been stipulated.
- We will seek to take special measures to expeditiously fill up the backlog of such vacancies in different categories for Central Government services.

Tourism & Heritage Conservation.

The rich potential of many states for promoting both for domestic and foreign tourism needs to be strengthened.

In some states like Bihar priority should be accorded:

- Early completion of Buddhist Tourist Circuit initiatives.
- Give content to creating Gandhi Tourist Circuits by retracing the footprints of Mahatma Gandhi considering its Universal Appeal in a world inquest for Gandhi an values.
- Seeking early implementation of externally aided projects for Four Leaning of such Highway connectivity.
- Take up the implementation of a new Airport at Rajgir and connect more destinations from the Gaya international airport.
- Factor the increased national and international movement of people after implementation of Nalanda University for planning of tourism infrastructure.
- Conservation of Heritage Sites in historically and culturally rich state like Bihar need better documentation, time bound excavation programme and adequacy of resources for their restoration and preservation.

Private Investments

- We will seek the strengthening of the regulatory framework and continue the reform process to improve the environment for private investment.
- We will also improvement and regulation to mitigate impact of market failures on the people.
- Many States which had earlier governance deficiencies or could not keep pace with the faster development in other regions have failed to attract private investment. We will seek special steps to attract private initiatives through regulatory and policy changes and specially in targeted areas of comparative factor advantage like in Agro Based Products, Infrastructure, Civil Aviation, Education and Health sectors by creating suitable policy framework and encouraging Public Private Partnership. This may equally necessitate a review of some existing policies in areas like sugar and ethanol, framework for subsidy, fiscal policy and resource devolution which currently inhibit investments.

Economic Reforms

- The policy of increasing market de-regulation and economic reforms would be continued to secure the advantage of improved factor efficiency and productivity gains. This requires structural policy changes in several areas like SEZ, Urbanization, Banking and Financial Intermediation, Infrastructure, Labor but it would be ensured that the benefits of these policies become available to the average consumer in terms of both the affordability and quality of service.
- We will protect the average man from endemic Markey failures and Markey excesses through improved regulation, credible monitoring and enforcement.

Public Sector Reforms

- While private investment will be encouraged the public sector will continue to have an important role in strategic areas like Food and Energy Security, Infrastructure and Social Sector to name a few. Public investments will be strengthened.
- We will also seek to improve the efficiency of public sector through managerial improvements, accord greater autonomy and them to improve productivity and efficiency through enhanced competition.
- While the Public Sector character of investments in strategic areas would be retained, making them more accountable to the people at large does not mitigate against a policy seeking wider share holding and enabling the people and the employees of these undertakings in having a greater share holding in the equity of these companies.

Migrant Workers & Protection to Domestic Workers

- It is natural to expect that differentials of economic growth and demand supply equilibrium induces large migrant workers to seek employment opportunities outside the poorer states like Bihar and UP in other more affluent parts of India. The recent spate of wanton violence and indignities inflicted on them is inconsistent with our values, Constitution, and sovereignty of the country.
- We will therefore seek the enactment of a new law as a Central Law called the “Migrant Labor Protection Act” making it mandatory for State Governments to guarantee to them security of life and property.
- To protect the interest of domestic workers we will seek the enactment of a Domestic Workers (registration, social security and welfare) Act which will protect the working conditions and minimum wages to millions of domestic workers working within the State and outside.

Foreign Policy

- India has traditionally pursued a policy of non-alignment and forging special links with the neighboring countries. In recent years it has also strengthened its relationship with China. It has also followed a policy of constructive partnership with all developed countries particularly, the US, the European nations and Japan. This is in addition to the growing friendly ties with developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. It will be our endeavor to further consolidate these relationships within the broad framework of our traditional policy of non-alignment.